14: Sura Al-Duha (93)

1. By the glorious morning light, 2. And by the night when it is still, 3. Your Lord has not forsaken you, nor is he displeased. 4. And truly the Hereafter will be better for you than the present. 5. And soon your Lord will give you so that you will be pleased. 6. Did He not find you an orphan and give you shelter? 7. And He found you wandering, and He gave you guidance. 8. And He found you in need, and made you independent. 9. Therefore, do not treat the orphan with harshness, 10. Nor drive the beggar away; 11. But tell about the bounty of your Lord!

Theme

Theme of the passage is God's special relation with the Holy Prophet. The passage was revealed after a long break that worried the prophet, and his makkan enemies began to mock him. God consoled him re-assuring that he would not abandon him. It shows Allah's special love, care, consolation, protection, guidance and assurance of success for Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). God helps those who are in distress including prophets, and Muslims. This sura is directed to the Prophet (pbuh) himself showing how God helped him, in this case with shelter, guidance and independence which reflects Allah's special relation with His messenger. Allah is always present and with Messengers and believers through the hardships they endure, and He supports them.

God reminded the prophet some of His past favors on him. The prophet was a born orphan but God made arrangements for his growth and upbringing. God then granted him prophet-hood, His greatest reward. Purpose of these reminders is to re-assure him of similar support in future. However, God instructed him to be kind to those in need as this would reflect his gratitude to God. God reminds the Prophet (pbuh) of the worthlessness of worldly life and the eternal bounties awaiting him in Akhirah. All prophets preferred afterlife over their earthly abode. Special instruction for good treatment of the needy and the poor are also given. Prophet (pbuh) is also asked to show gratitude and gratefulness which is the best way to strengthen our relation with Allah.

B: Importance of the Themes

The theme of this passage teaches Muslims the importance of faith in God's help. The Holy Prophet (SAW) was re-assured by God in the midst of mockery in Makkah. Muslims today should also retain their faith in difficult times by remembering the Quranic promise: "So, verily with every difficulty there is a relief" (94:5, al-Inshirah). Muslims should believe that all messengers of God were rejected and ridiculed but they remained firm in their mission. They should also believe that the relationship with God can be strengthened by their kindness to the weak and unsupported people because such an attitude is an expression of love for God. The Quran says: "it is righteous to spend of your substance out of love for Him, for your kins, for orphans" (2:177, al-Baqarah). These themes tell humans not to worry when others oppose or hurt you. A person may think that God has deserted them, or He does not seem to be

there when they go through hard times in their lives, but these themes assure them that He is always present and with them. God gave blessings to the Prophet (pbuh), despite people saying that he had been forgotten by God. Muslims should look at their own lives to see their blessings and not think they have been given nothing; they should not constantly want more than what they have. These themes also encourage people to be kind and compassionate to the vulnerable members of the society, particularly orphans and destitute. These themes also create appreciation and gratitude in Muslims.

15: Sura Al-Kauthar (108)

1. To you have We granted abundance. 2. So pray to your Lord and sacrifice. 3. For he who hates you, he will be cut off

A: Theme:

Theme of the passage is God's relation with his messengers. It mentions God's special care for the Holy Prophet (SAW) in time of difficulties. It was revealed as a consolation to the Prophet (pbuh) and foretold the destruction of his opponents. The Prophet was mocked by the Makkans on the death of his sons from Khadija (RA). God consoled him by promising him abundance of success and destruction of the ones who insulted him. It reflects Allah's special relation with His messenger that Allah always helps, protects, consoles and rewards His prophet during his mission. God's gift for Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is mentioned here that Allah has given the Prophet (pbuh) kawthar, which has various meanings. kawthar's most common meaning is a river in paradise, but also has the meaning of progeny, guidance in abundance, success and his followers.

He told the prophet to remember God through regular prayer and to develop the spirit of sacrifice so that he could continuously strengthen his bond with God and to get constant divine support. To show his gratitude the Prophet (pbuh) in particular, and Muslims in general, are expected to worship God and display the spirit of sacrifice, determination and good character.

B: Importance of the Theme:

The teachings give an insight into the relationship between God and the Prophet (pbuh) has lessons for Muslims. This passage teaches Muslims to have faith in God's support that surely teaches the noble people. Future hope is also given with the promise of the Kawthar in paradise. The holy prophet was assured of "abundance" in the face of persecutions in Makka. This "abundance" came in the form of his countless followers and his descendants through his daughter Fatima. His insulters, on the other hand, perished forever. So, a noble mission always survives though it is rejected by the misguided people. The Quran testifies to it: "rejected were the Messengers before you; with patience and constancy they bore their rejection "(6:34, al-An'am). The passage teaches Muslims to develop spirit of sacrifice and establish prayer as these are the best means of getting closer to their lord, as is endorsed by the Quran: "and

establish regular prayer in order to remember Me" (20:14, Taha). Muslims today are that future generation of followers that was given to the Prophet (pbuh), and so this sura gives hope to people in times of need. God always intervenes in times of difficulty so Muslims should always remember to look to Him for help and support. People should not feel disheartened and remain steadfast in times of difficulty, for example, during illness or oppression. Muslims should display a spirit of sacrifice and prayer, particularly when hard times befall. Even prophets were tested and faced hardships but remained steadfast so Muslims should not despair of God's mercy when facing hardships.